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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
1 June 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic  
(Report #255 - As of 4:30 pm EDT)

Imbert has made a major political move aimed at increasing his domestic and foreign support and putting the rebels on the defensive.

Ambassador Bennett reports that in an early afternoon meeting with Imbert and other members of the Government of National Reconstruction today, the loyalists decided on their own initiative to announce publicly their willingness to let the Organization of American States (OAS) fix the date and make all arrangements for free and open elections. All democratic parties recognized by the national election board would participate, including Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party and Balaguer's Reformist Party.

In addition to this new vote of confidence in the OAS, the Imbert regime also appears to have changed its mind regarding the acceptability of OAS Secretary General Jose Mora as the chief spokesman for the organization in the Dominican Republic. In contrast to the regime's earlier criticism of him, members of the government this morning told Mora that they had sent a wire to OAS headquarters praising his work and requesting that he stay on in Santo Domingo to help resolve the crisis. Mora, who has been considerably heartened by these recent developments, now feels that he is very much "back in business."

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It is now up to the rebels to respond to the Imbert initiative. Judging by their recent performances, the rebels might well seek to expand upon their charges that Mora and the OAS are clearly partial to the Imbert side. They might also go back to their continuous insistence that the Bosch government's 1963 constitution be recognized as the law of the land, or that Caamano's "five points" be accepted as the sole basis for political negotiations.

The possibility of extending the safety zone to include the National Palace has been strengthened today. Loyalist armed forces minister Rivera Caminero agreed this morning to a formula for accomplishing this which differs only slightly from one previously accepted by the rebels. The new formula must still be taken to Caamano for approval, however. The new turn came after a meeting yesterday morning in which the Organization of American States (OAS) team said that Rivera Caminero appeared to be welshing on the loyalists' word that they would agree to the proposal. The off-again on-again nature of the talks concerning the extension has up to this point been quite similar to that of the discussions involving turning over the facilities of Radio Santo Domingo to the OAS, which Imbert finally refused to do.

Meanwhile, continued rebel uneasiness over Imbert's military intentions is indicated by protests of alleged ceasefire violations to the UN mission in the Dominican Republic. Rebel Foreign Minister Cury protested last night to UN military advisor Rikhye that Imbert was concentrating forces in several areas and increasing the number of loyalist troops at the National Palace. Cury said that the replacement of US troops by Latin American troops in the vicinity of the National Palace could leave a weak spot where Imbert might attempt a breakthrough. Cury also made the unfounded allegation that the US Embassy has told Imbert that now is the time for him to move. The Embassy comments that some of the allegations about an Imbert military buildup appear to be true since this is part of the loyalists' war of nerves against the rebels but that fear of a breakthrough is unfounded since there are enough Inter-American Force troops to prevent it.

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Indeed, the loyalist military leaders have told the US attachés that no military action against the rebels is currently planned nor would one be undertaken without full coordination with the US commanders. Nevertheless, the loyalists remain convinced that eventually they must move against the rebels, and they have organized a joint staff to prepare plans for a possible combined assault against the rebel stronghold.

Rebel radio broadcasts of last night and today have featured the theme that there are three main "forces" sustaining the "revolutionary movement:" the first is the strength of the rebels themselves; the second is the support of the Dominican people; and the "third force" is the "powerful international support for the revolution." The "attack" by the big nation--the US--on the small nation, added to the basic sympathy that most Latin Americans already feel for the revolution's aims, has increased the support of other Latin American countries for the movement, one broadcast noted.

An announcement broadcast by the rebel station at 12:15 pm EDT today alerted various international organizations to the claim that Imbert's forces were trying to starve the rebels in downtown Santo Domingo into submission. "In a last ditch attempt to win," the announcement stated, loyalist forces were "intercepting all trucks with food, vegetables, and provisions to prevent them from reaching the constitutionalists." The report would appear to be distorted or untrue, however, since Imbert's forces presumably lack the means to make such a siege completely effective. Nevertheless, this charge may be raised by the rebels in future dealings with the UN Security Council, the Organization of American States, or the latter body's Human Rights Commission.

Since the outburst of violence last Sunday, the interior town of San Francisco de Macoris has remained calm.

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The pro-Castro Fourteenth of June Political Group (APCJ) member, Rafael Cardenas, who was killed in the demonstration was buried without any agitation or attempts to make a martyr out of him. Elsewhere in the Cibao region, including the towns of Santiago and Salcedo, the situation was also quiet.

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